

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of Claims in the Application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1-12 (canceled).
- 1 13. (Currently Amended) A method of determining a damage threshold for delivering an
2 antiseptic dose to a pathogen in a ~~target~~ periodontal tissue, the method comprising:
3 a. measuring a pulsed laser output from a laser source;
4 b. irradiating ~~the a~~ target with the pulsed laser output, wherein the target comprises
5 the pathogen and a material that is different from the periodontal tissue;
6 c. ~~examining~~ monitoring the pathogen for ablation;
7 d. adjusting the pulsed laser output; [[and]]
8 e. repeating steps (a) through (d) to determine ~~the~~ an ablation threshold of the
9 pathogen within the target; and
10 f. calculating a therapeutic ratio for treating the periodontal tissue comprising the
11 pathogen based on a known response of periodontal tissue to the laser output and
12 the ablation threshold of the pathogen within the target.
- 1 14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein adjusting the pulsed laser output comprises
2 controlling a distance between a firing end of the laser source and a surface of the target.
- 1 15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the pulsed laser output is delivered at a
2 repetition rate corresponding to a photo-acoustic of the target.
- 1 16. (Canceled).
- 1 17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[16]] 13, further comprising selecting a
2 treatment protocol for treating the periodontal ~~tissues~~ tissue that ~~host~~ hosts the pathogen
3 based on the therapeutic ratio.

- 1 18. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the pulsed laser output corresponds to a
2 wavelength in a range of 580 to 1800 nanometers.
- 1 19. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein irradiating the target with the pulsed laser
2 output comprises exposing the target through an optical fiber.
- 1 20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein ~~examining~~ monitoring the
2 pathogen for ablation comprises scanning an exposed region of the target with an optical
3 scanning means.
- 1 21. (canceled).
- 1 22. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein monitoring the pathogen for ablation comprises
2 measuring sound using an audio detector.